DC COMICS
THE NEW 52!
5
NIGHTWING
HIGGINS
BARROWS
SIQUEIRA
FERREIRA
UNHOLY
Matrimony
RATED T TEEN
MAR 2012
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ROD
REIS

After witnessing the deaths of his parents as a boy, Dick Grayson was taken under Batman's wing, becoming Robin, the Boy Wonder. But when the Boy Wonder became a man, he shed the identity of Robin and branded himself as...
NIGHTWING
'TIL DEATH DO US PART
IN ALL THAT TRANSPIRES BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT--
KYLE HIGGINS WRITER • EDDY BARROWS PENCILS • PAULO SIQUEIRA & EBER FERREIRA INKS
ROD REIS COLORS • CARLOS M. MANGUAL LETTERS • BARROWS & REIS COVER
KATIE KUBERT ASSISTANT EDITOR • BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ

--I BID THEE...COME FORWARD!
FORWARD!
COME FORWARD AND SERVE ZOHNA!
AT LAST I WAKE, THE HELLISH DREAMS ARE GONE--
--WHO DARES TO WAKE THE SPIRIT ACHERON?
I, ZOHNA, DAUGHTER OF JEREMIAH AND CIARA, HAVE SUMMONED YOU, DEMON!
I'M CONJURE-BOUND TO DO WHAT YOU REQUIRE.
HOW MUST I SERVE, AND WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?
TO BE WITH ANOTHER, WHO YOU WILL BRING HERE.
ANOTHER WHO WILL BELONG TO ME.
HALY'S CIRCUS
As someone whose life has always been complicated...

...I think I've gotten pretty good at managing the unexpected.
OUTSIDE NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Like tonight, when looking for info on hired killers kept me from getting back to Haly's Circus before the train left.
But something like this is why I spent weeks memorizing the travel routes in every state.
Including what stretches of road run both parallel...
...and above the train tracks.

It's also why I asked the ring crew to run my "storage car" as the caboose--to limit the odds of someone seeing me duck in or out on the bike.
But of course, no matter how many plans you make, there'll always be **something** that catches you off guard.
Like the reason I'm here in the **first** place.
A few weeks ago, a hired gun named **Saiko** came after **Dick Grayson**, claiming I was the "fiercest killer in all of Gotham."
Which was actually **before** he murdered Mr. Haly and discovered that I'm **Nightwing**.
...my only clue is an old book that was hidden in the center ring of the circus.
Mr. Haly left me the circus, a mystery about what it **really** is, and the responsibility to protect it.
It's filled with names, including **mine**, and is supposed to be the answer to whatever secret this place is holding.
But aside from putting pressure on the underworld in order to find Saiko--which hasn't gotten me **anywhere**...

At least, I think it is.
Most of the names are so old that I haven't been able to prove their owners even **existed.**
The whole experience has been...frustrating, to say the least.
Of course, **Raya** barely speaking to me since my friend **Barbara Gordon** visited in Miami--
--and Mr. Haly's son **Bryan** still hating me for "stealing the circus out from under him" haven't exactly helped.
But I guess as far as the **unexpected** goes...

Because we were meant to be together, Jimmy, forever. You need to stop denying it... For both our sakes.
...I could be doing worse.
YOU ALL RIGHT, JIMMY?
WHAT?
YOU LOOK WHITER THAN USUAL.
JUST...REMEMBERING HOW MUCH I HATE THIS PLACE.
HOW COULD YOU HATE NEW ORLEANS?
I HATE A LOT OF PLACES.
SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO POUR CEMENT, RAYA.
THE GROUND'S SO SOFT I CAN'T KEEP ANY TENSION IN THE LINES.
WANNA GO ASK GRAYSON TO APPROVE IT?
JUST GO YOURSELF, MARC.
WELL, I WOULD, BUT I'M NOT THE "DEPARTMENT HEAD."
THAT'S YOUR GIG.

It's been the same dream off and on for weeks.
COME ON, RAYMOND-- FASTER!
I'm back under the big top, rehearsing the opening ceremonies with Raymond.
It's equal parts aerial show...
GOOD... GOOD!
...and sparring dance.
It's also one of the last times I saw him...
...and them alive.
My parents-- "The Flying Graysons."
Deep down I know the dream is probably just residual, an aftereffect of my run-in with Zane.*
But knowing that doesn't make it any easier. Especially since it always ends the same way...
*SEE ISSUE #3 --BOBBIE

...with me alone.
HUH?
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
HEY...SORRY TO BOTHER YOU...
NO, IT'S... IT'S FINE. WHAT'S UP?
JUST NEED YOUR APPROVAL TO GET CEMENT POURED, FOR THE TRAPEZE FOUNDATIONS. THE GROUND IS TOO SOFT.
GOTTA LOVE WORKING BELOW SEA LEVEL, HUH?
RIGHT...
THAT'S IT, THEN?
THAT'S *IT.*
SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT HOW YOU'VE BARELY SAID TWO WORDS TO ME SINCE MIAMI? THAT'S THE PLAN?
I... HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING *TO* SAY.
IF THIS IS ABOUT BARBARA--
IT'S *NOT.*
HOW ABOUT DINNER TONIGHT?
I DON'T THINK SO, DICK.
LOOK, RAYA... I LIKE YOU... I LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH YOU...I EVEN LIKE TRYING TO TALK YOU INTO DINNER.
SO LET'S STOP OVER-THINKING THIS AND JUST DO WHAT YOU SAID--NO PRESSURE, TAKE IT FOR WHAT IT IS. LET'S JUST...ENJOY IT FOR HOWEVER LONG IT *DOES* LAST. STARTING TONIGHT.
I MEAN, COME ON--WE'RE IN *NEW ORLEANS.* WHO DOESN'T *LOVE* NEW ORLEANS?

THAT NIGHT.
ARE YOU OKAY, JIMMY?
FINE...I'M FINE...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GONNA PASS OUT.
NAH, JUST...A LITTLE WARM IS ALL.
HERE... LET ME FIND YOU SOME WATER.
THANKS...
COME ON, JIMMY...PULL IT TOGETHER.
NOTHING'S GONNA--

JAMES ALLEN CLARK, THIS DEMON COMES FOR YOU!
UHNN!
--HAPPEN?
OH, SKINNY FOOL, WISH MORTAL LIFE "ADIEU."
Uhhhhh...
So much for managing the "unexpected."
Jimmy's passed out.
Reflexes take over.
DROP HIM!
IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL LEAVE THIS FIGHT ALL ALONE.
BEFORE THIS DEMON BREAKS YOUR LITTLE BONES!
UGH!
I take it back-- this is beyond "unexpected."
Don't usually get rhyming demons in Gotham City.

Uhmm...
SO MUCH FOR D'NNER...

Whatever this... thing is, it got a good head start.
But something this big should create a lot of friction.
So why is what I'm seeing an absence of heat?
Just what is this thing?
Wha...
THE HOUR'S NIGH, YOUR SOULS ARE SOON COMBINED.

HOLD TIGHT THE OBJECT WHICH CREATES THE BIND!
ZOHNA... PLEASE...
WE BELONG TOGETHER, JIMMY... WE ALWAYS HAVE. FOREVER.
THIS... THIS ISN'T RIGHT, ZOHNA. EVERYTHING YOUR FAMILY WAS, EVERYTHING YOU WERE AVOIDING--
I HAD NOTHING WHEN YOU LEFT, JIMMY!
NO... NO!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO STAY AWAY FROM ALL THIS GARBAGE!
IT'S TOO LATE. THE SACRIFICE HAS BEEN MADE, THE DEMON IS BOUND TO ME.
AND NOW HE WILL BIND US, FOREVER. OUR SOULS AS ONE.
THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.

ARGH!
I HOPE YOU GUYS DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY--
--BUT THIS IS SO OUT OF MY WHEELHOUSE IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.
JILTED LOVERS--
--SOUL-BINDING CEREMONIES--
--SONNET-SPEAKING DEMONS--
--YEAH... I DON'T HAVE TO KEEP GOING, RIGHT?
OOP!

OOF!
Okay, this definitely won't be making my list of top five greatest plans.
THE TIME IS HERE, JIMMY...
THE TIME IS HERE!
Now, that's interesting...
AAAGH!

ARHHHH!
THE MASKED MAN STOPS AND--
--SORRY, WE'RE NOT STOPPING JUST YET...
EHNN!
Only going to get one shot at this.
STILL NOW WITH HASTE--
--YOUR SOUL TO HELL I SEND!
Hope he makes it count.
ARHHHHH!

SCHLOOM
NO!!!
WHAT...IS... HAPPENING?!
I THINK YOU'RE "UNBOUND."
NO! YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS!
SORRY, LADY--
--NOT TONIGHT.

ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH... I THINK SO.
THE MAUSOLEUM WITH THE SYMBOL WAS HER FAMILY'S, WASN'T IT? THAT'S HOW SHE HAD POWER OVER HIM.
OH, ZOHNA... WHAT'D IT TAKE TO SUMMON THAT-- THING HERE? THE SOULS OF YOUR FAMILY?
FOR US, JIMMY...IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE US...
NEVER MET ONE OF YOU "COSTUMES" BEFORE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THE CRAZY YELLOW SKIES-- FIGURED THEY PROBABLY WEREN'T GOOD.
SO YOU JUST... SHOWED UP?
THAT'S KIND OF WHAT WE DO.
POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY--YOU CAN FILL THEM IN.
JUST ONE QUESTION.
WHAT?
I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE, BUT THAT RING--DID IT ACTUALLY GIVE HER SOME SORT OF POWER OVER YOU?
YOU COULD SAY THAT... IT USED TO MEAN SOMETHING.

SO WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
WHAT?
I WENT TO GRAB SOME WATER, AND YOU WERE GONE. YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?
NOT REALLY.
SORRY, JIMMY. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...
LISTEN, DICK...
I'M NOT SURE WHY EXACTLY YOU DECIDED TO COME BACK TO HALY'S, BUT TAKE IT FROM ME--SOMETIMES IT'S BEST TO KEEP WHAT'S BEHIND YOU *BEHIND* YOU.
SOME THINGS ARE BETTER OFF LEFT BURIED.
TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND, ALL RIGHT?
"HE'S FOUND THE BOOK OF NAMES?"
"YES."
"AND DOES HE HAVE ANY IDEA YET?"
"NOT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL."

GOOD. BECAUSE THE *LAST* THING WE'D WANT TO DO--
--IS RUIN THE *SURPRISE.*
ARE WE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS?
NO. WE'RE NOT.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS GETTING BACK TO GOTHAM. I NEED TO KNOW YOU CAN DO IT. I NEED TO KNOW YOU'RE *COMMITTED.*
I'M ONE HUNDRED PERCENT COMMITTED, JUST LIKE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN...
...RAYMOND.
GOOD.
THEN LET'S PUT ON A SHOW THAT *NO ONE* WILL EVER FORGET.
NEXT ISSUE:
A PERFORMANCE TO END ALL PERFORMANCES!

KYLE HIGGINS
JOE BENNETT
DEATH STROKE
DC COMICS
THE NEW 52
MONTHLY
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